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THE TIMES-DISPATCH and Breakfast  
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#### Putting Cotton Mills to Work

THE Wall Street Journal, which may or may not speak with authority on the subject, says that one of the purposes of the Wade plan to relieve the cotton situation "is to encourage and assist spinners to lay in supplies of cotton, taking advantage of prevailing low prices to provide for their future manufacturing requirements."

That hardly seems to chime with the common understanding of the movement, which is that the cotton is not to be taken over from its present owners, who are to obtain loans, with the cotton as security.

But if the Wall Street Journal's idea can be carried out without detriment to the other features of the plan, it will be more helpful. Putting cotton away until next year will not solve the problem permanently; a way must be found for the consumption of the surplus. Every method of increasing consumption that is shown to be feasible should be attempted.

#### America's Amateur Diplomats

PRESIDENT WILSON has given his emphatic endorsement to the candidacy of James W. Gerard, now the American ambassador at Berlin, for the United States Senate from New York. It is an endorsement well deserved, for Judge Gerard has made a notable record for efficiency and adequacy in the very difficult situation in which he has been placed.

It is worthy of note that this country's amateur diplomats have borne themselves well through the dangerous mazes of a general European war. Mr. Page in London, Mr. Herrick in Paris and Judge Gerard in Berlin have won the plaudits of their fellow countrymen and of the foreign offices of the powers. Without concluding that our method of recruiting the diplomatic corps is everything that could be desired, it is safe to say that in this crisis American diplomacy has not suffered by comparison with that of other countries.

European diplomacy failed to avert war; American diplomacy has made the best of an evil situation and prevented or mitigated a great mass of human suffering.

#### A Chance for Suffrage

THERE is a possibility that if they keep on killing off all the men in Europe the women will have to vote to present a quorum of citizenship at the ballot box. In this there is a chance for suffrage. At the present rate, all the men of more than twenty years, up to that age when they are too old to go out alone, seem likely to fall in the ditches or return to their homes disabled for life. And until the babies grow up some one has to vote. That's certainty. And perhaps in this the English suffragettes see a reason for "laying to" with their strenuous measures and awaiting eventualities, in the hope of winning by force of circumstances.

There is another possibility. To date, women in England—that is, the militant women in England—have been clamoring for a vote under a constitutional monarchy. Perhaps they have declared an armistice pending more definite information as to whether the method of voting is to be changed by war's results. They may figure that they will vote in a republic instead of a monarchy, which would, of course, be material. Then again, they may have "doped it out" that, instead of voting in England or Germany or France, they will be voting in the United States of Europe, and ratification of their rights may be up to a new Congress. In short, there's no use in wasting effort by taking the wrong direction.

Yes; there's hope for suffrage in the war. And again, possibly the emphasis recently laid on the responsibility of government may have dampened the zeal of even the militant woman—for woman, after all, has a good heart.

#### Introducing Two Distant Friends

RICHMOND will watch with interest the progress of the effort, to be made through the post-office here, to bring the grower of farm produce and the ultimate consumer into immediate contact. The plan, which has been tried with varying success in other cities, is a part of Postmaster-General Burleson's development of the parcel post system.

The postmaster is instructed to obtain lists of farmers on the rural free delivery routes who are willing to sell their produce direct and without the middleman's intervention. Consumers will be furnished on application with the lists thus obtained, which will show what each farmer has on hand and for sale. The law of supply and demand, the parcel post and rural free delivery will be relied on to do the rest.

These agencies, of course, may turn the trick, and then again they may not. In Baltimore, where the plan was tried some months ago, it has not proved enormously successful.

and there have been failures, partial or complete, in other places as well.

There have been a good many troubles. For one thing, there has been a lack of standardization. Country butter, for example, varies very greatly in quality; while some of it is good, some of it is pretty bad, and the housewife that orders sight unseen never knows what she is going to get until she opens the package. The same thing is true of fruits and vegetables.

The lack of suitable containers for the transportation of the farmer's products is another difficulty. Those available are subject to manifold objections. They are too heavy or too costly or too fragile, but always, for some reason or another, they strip the farmer either of his profit or of the satisfaction of delivering his butter, fruits or vegetables in good condition.

Moreover, the canny agriculturist has shown a disposition to collect from the consumer the prices charged by the city retailer, thus collecting the whole profit. That always caused annoyance.

The truth is, as The Times-Dispatch said the other day, humanity has a tremendously hard time separating itself from the middleman. He has been on the job a long time, and we have become accustomed to him. We don't like him, of course, but we begin to pine and languish as soon as he is removed from our sight. Perhaps the government will be more successful than other instructors in teaching us how to do without him.

#### Marse Henry's Retreat on Washington

WHEN it was announced from Washington the other day that President Wilson and Colonel Marse Henry Waterson were waving emblems of peace at each other, the President using an olive branch for this purpose and the colonel a sprig of Kentucky mint buried in the fragrant essence of Kentucky corn, it caused wonderment that this particular time should have been selected for the reconciliation.

There were even some carping and incredulous cynics who sought to cast doubt on the bona fides of the whole transaction, pretending to believe that it was staged for a purpose, and that the President and the colonel either had been friends for a long time or never would be friends again.

In a sense, the cynics were right. The true explanation of the colonel's flight from old Kentucky is revealed by a letter published in the Courier-Journal the very morning that he departed. After reading it, there is no longer wonder that Marse Henry felt called on to flee nor difficulty in understanding why the President, who has had a few such troubles of his own, was willing to save a veteran Democrat and consented to bear a part in the pious fraud.

The letter is a rather long one, but its concluding paragraphs are as follows:

I would have a law passed to stop such newspapers as the Courier-Journal and others from insulting the good women of the country who have done such noble work as the suffragist has done, by calling them seditious names, such as crazy Jane, Sister Salles, suffragettes, etc. You haven't any more right to call us suffragettes than we have to call you Germans and allies. Are you anti giving the suffragist of Massachusetts justice when you count all of the women that have not organized for suffrage opposed to it? Your article says there are 40,000 suffragists. I have one question to ask. You answer it and come out of your pen. How many organized anti-suffragists are there in Massachusetts?

LEED WITHERS SMITH.

Marse Henry is a strategist. When he received Miss Leed Withers Smith's letter, he held it for a day or two while he perfected a plan. He decided that rather than "answer that question," it would be easier for him to "come off his perch." So he came, falling back in good order, but by the fastest train. Now that the coup has been successfully executed, it may be revealed that the supposed reconciliation with the President was a mere ruse de guerre.

#### The Refugees

THEY are pouring into England from France, where from Belgium they sought haven from the onrushing Germans. France received them with singing on the boulevards and music and mirth in the cafes, for there were still tourists to keep the fun going in that home of gaiety and untrifledness. But then things grew worse, and even France became restless and annoyed, and the Belgian government began to jump about frantically.

They overflowed into Holland, and were taken across the channel from Ostend. Then, Ostend being closed by the approach of the Germans, the poor refugees poured into Dunkirk and Calais, pitifully stretching out their arms towards boats that came to take them away. Into England they will go, and to London, and if the Germans keep their threat to bombard London with a fleet of Zeppelins, the refugees, pushed to the brink of the ocean, will seek new havens.

In the course of time, perhaps, these and others—the well, the wounded, the widows and orphans and old men, and all who can get away, will be trying to reach the United States. And when they arrive under the shadow of the dear old girl who holds her light aloft in the harbor of New York, what then will fate hold in store for them?

The spectacle of men fighting and dying in the ditches is bad enough, but the more that other scenes bear itself in upon intelligence, the sadder it is to see all these thousands driven from their homes, then from their very countries—beaten, whipped, scourged out into strange lands where people speak strange tongues, and where there is hopelessness and despair and confusion.

We who are at home with our loved ones, who, for the time at least, have plenty to eat and a roof and a bed to sleep in, and who do not look fearfully at the sky nor tremble at the boom of cannon—we may come to have our share in the kinder side of things.

The Boer uprising in South Africa appears to have been a mere flash in the pan. Maritz and his men are opposed by the overwhelming preponderance of Boer sentiment, which recognized General Botha, the Premier, as its leader.

Little Newfoundland is wondering now whether it is wise to keep itself separate from the Dominion of Canada. If Germany should win in the present struggle and look around for "a place in the sun," Britain's small colonies would prove mighty tempting.

The police are looking for the alleged humorist who said he hoped the bakers would bring plenty of dough with them.

Republicans are still trying to find a way in which they can attack a President that the whole country and the whole world are praising.

## SONGS AND SAWS

### A Man of Peace.

The Kaiser is a peaceful man. We have his own word for it: And as for war, he says: "It is always to be avoided." But if he's forced to start a fight or tear in bits a scrap of paper, he puts the Dove of Peace to flight and cuts a very martial caper.

### The President Says:

Why don't you newspaper fellows get together and decide what you are going to tell the rest of the world about the European war? You change your minds so often and so rapidly that in the effort to follow my brain begins to feel like a scrambled egg.

### A Meditated Reform.

Stubbs—I hear you have decided to stop drinking. Grubbs—I have; but I have not been able to make up my mind just when I shall take the last dram.

### The Best Reason of All.

"The President gives some pretty sound reasons for the re-election of Democratic Congressmen," said the Prominent Citizen, "but the best reason of all for sending them back to Washington is that they gave the President their support."

### Decorated.

He—What have you done with the Jack roses that I sent you yesterday? She—Why, the young man you said would suffer happily? You change he did not keep away called last evening, and I gave him the roses as a sort of "Red Badge of Courage."

### Uncle Zach's Philosophy.

They ain't no sense in keepin' on arter er business w'en yer done showed dat you ain't fitted ter run it. Dere's a whole lot er mitey good grocery clerks an' ditch diggers been aploed to nicker some mitey po lawyars and doctars.

### Political Tragedy.

G. O. P.: The G. O. P. is a political thing to see. Mixed up with Barnes and Penrose, too. It can't decide what it should do. And so it keeps on standing still. And talking of the tariff bill. It is a political thing to see. The suffering of the G. O. P.

THE TATTLER.

## Chats With Virginia Editors

The Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch is needlessly alarmed, judging from this paragraph: "We don't know exactly what this country bought in Antwerp, but it looks as if we would have to make it over here for some time to come." So long as we are not seeing watches from Meriden, Conn., and Dresden china from East Liverpool, Ohio, there should be no occasion to feel apprehensive as to where we shall obtain the genuine Antwerp article.

Viewing the situation with a critical eye, Editor Lindsay, of the Charlottesville Progress, comments: "The fall of Antwerp looks like the fall of the first great blunder of the allies—that is to say, it looks as if it could have been prevented." Peering back through the dim vistas of time, it is even possible to discern that the fall of Adam "could have been prevented."

"Notwithstanding and nevertheless, it was a square and not a ruse. Deal that was given to Philadelphia in Saturday's game," the Clifton Forge Review observes. Surest thing you know—a Deal from the top. But the absence of a fifth game gives the contest an unimportant aspect. Looks as if Boston won on a bolt-tail straight or a diamond four-flush.

Those of us who are watching the trend of events in the European war zone—and we believe that that includes nearly all of us—are asking the question: What will be the effect of the fall of Antwerp? If the Danville Bee is addressing the question to us, we venture to say that when Antwerp has dug out of her ruins the \$100,000,000 fine imposed by Germany, she will not have even household effects.

How much more fortunate is Newport News in her political destinies than Norfolk! The Times-Herald, of the former city, says: "The session of the City Council this evening promises to be a good show." On the other hand, the Norfolk newspapers have been complaining recently that the Norfolk Council gives the citizens and taxpayers no show at all.

## War News Fifty Years Ago

(From the Richmond Dispatch, Oct. 20, 1864.)

Yesterday was another quiet day along the immediate lines below this city. The men of the opposing armies lounged about in full sight and in easy market reach of each other without a single hostile demonstration. The pickets stationed in the line of the whispering pines, every one of them looking as though he devoutly wished this cruel war was over.

The Federal garrison at Fort Harrison are still busily engaged in the work of constructing bomb proofs. All of their movements can be easily discerned by the naked eye from this point on our line directly in front of the fort, the distance between them being scarcely over 500 yards.

The removal of General Braxton Bragg from the Department of Richmond, it is understood, is not permanent. He has been ordered temporarily for special service at an important Southern military post.

In all the region around Petersburg all is very nearly as quiet as if no men at arms were being killed, strong redoubts and waiting to take each other's lives. What the reason for this lull will doubtless be apparent in a few days, when the grand opening takes place on the north side, and Lee and Grant shall once put a passage at arms.

We are gratified that the Federal troops are being extensively supplied with what they call repeating rifles or muskets. This weapon has the improved musket barrel, but is chambered and fires twice without reloading. It is an invaluable piece of workmanship, and is said to be a very superior weapon. Many of these guns have been captured from the enemy and placed in the hands of our skirmishers and sharpshooters, who quickly learned how to operate them, and thus it happens that the Federals have been made to feel the weight of their own steel.

Brigadier-General Lewis Cabell, of the Confederate army, who was recently killed at Pilot Knob, in Missouri, was a graduate of West Point and formerly an officer in the old army. He was son of the late B. W. S. Cabell, of Pittsylvania County, Va., and was well known in Danville, where he had many relatives, including a brother, Lieutenant-Colonel George C. Cabell, of the Virginia troops. He was chief quartermaster of the Confederate army at Manassas.

An official dispatch from Georgia yesterday states that General Hood's forces have destroyed the Western and Atlantic Railroad from near Resaca, Ga., within a short distance of Tunnel Hill, and also a portion of the Cleveland Road, thus crippling Sherman's supply route. Hood's men have also captured Dalton and all intermediate garrisons, with many stores, arms and equipment, and about 1,000 prisoners. Colonel R. D. Harless, chief engineer on the staff of General Beauregard, died in Charleston a few days since. He was an able and efficient Confederate officer.

A most remarkable robbery is reported from Rocketts. A frame house that had been used as a breeder for several months has been without an occupant, was pulled down and all the timbers hauled away, presumably for firewood. Who the robbers were doth not yet appear, but they were bold ones to get away

with a whole house within the dark hours of just one night. But then, firewood is scarce, and a hard winter is coming on.

There are coming in some fine reports from Mosby's men and their doings in the Valley just at this time, but there is much work ahead for Mosby's men, and the War Department deems it wise to keep mum and let no news leak out just now as to what Mosby is up to or where he and his men are right at present.

## Current Editorial Comment

### Wrong Use of War Prisoners

There must be some mistake about the report from Berlin that quotes the Berliner Tageblatt as saying that all prisoners captured in Russian Poland will be compelled to enlist in the German army to fight against Russia. Germany, we know, is making her own rules of war as she goes along, but it is almost inconceivable that she will attempt to make prisoners of war fight against their own country. That would be a development of militarism that the civilized world is not prepared for, and we are not ready to credit the report without better evidence.—Hartford Courant.

### Improvement in Trade Being Shown

There is unquestionable improvement in the trade of the country. Business men who are intent on business are rapidly readjusting their affairs to suit changing conditions. The great war convulsion which has put temporary check upon certain forms of industry has created new demand in other fields of manufacturing activity. The processes of readjustment are necessarily slow, but they involve changes that will outlast the war and give permanent enlargement to the future industrial activities of the country. As soon as the November elections are over and a season of political calm ensues it is safe to predict a very general renewal of confidence in the future prosperity of the people of the United States. It is a part of the political game to brate the party in power just before the day of election. The day afterward things are different.—Philadelphia Record.

## Queries and Answers

Beaumarchais. MRS. E. T. R. Pierre Augustin Canon de Beaumarchais was a most gifted Frenchman, born and died in the same years as Washington—1732 and 1798—son of a Paris watchmaker, of great musical talents, teacher to the daughters of Louis XV. and author of "The Barber of Seville," "The Marriage of Figaro," etc. With his wife, he got a great estate and became a person of immense wealth and political and financial influence. Our views on this largely in the fact that he is early in 1775, after the French government to aid the American colonies against England, and it was as agent for the French government that he was present in England and had his interview with Lord Sandwich. Beaumarchais got a gainer in his transactions with us, as \$500,000 francs of his claim laid unpaid till 1835.

Bar Examination. How may I secure copies of questions asked in former bar examinations in Virginia?

Publication is made in The Virginia Appeals, and you may secure copy by writing to the Clerk of the Court of Appeals, Library Building, Richmond, Va.

## The Voice of the People

Why Not? To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—If I could speak to the bankers, why shouldn't I speak to the bakers? I am a baker in English is luck; I am a baker in English is luck. SIMON BOWMAN.

Richmond, October 17, 1914.

Wants Police Force Increased. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—As the City Council is already considering a proposed ordinance providing for an increase of thirty-five men in the present police force on the ground that this number will be required to police the annexed territory, I think it pertinent to call attention to a condition which already exists and which of itself would seem to indicate that additional men are needed at the present time.

With the possible exception of mounted officers, traffic and bicycle police, the members of the force are required to report for duty at the most frequent intervals, preventing them from securing much-needed rest. I frequently happen, I understand, that a patrolman is relieved from duty at 7 o'clock, and in the evening, but must report for duty again at 1 o'clock, and so on, with probably two hours lost in going to and from the station-house and in eating meals. I think the force should be increased. The force already existing, and which of itself would seem to indicate that additional men are needed at the present time, with the possible exception of mounted officers, traffic and bicycle police, the members of the force are required to report for duty at the most frequent intervals, preventing them from securing much-needed rest.

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## It Would Have Been All Over by Now

ONE OF THE DAY'S BEST CARTOONS



IF I WERE KING  
—From the New York Evening Sun.

## GRIM REALITIES OF THE BATTLEFIELD

LONDON, October 12.—People of this generation have never before seen real war, and they have a hard time realizing what it means. True, they have read histories of the wars of years ago, but it is hard for the average reader to grasp the difference between history and fiction, as far as realizing the actual conditions is concerned. Consequently the people now living are obtaining their first realization of the grim realities of the war, from tales told by the wounded now arriving in England, and the letters sent back by the men at the front.

Through the letters of soldiers at the front to their friends, and from the tales of those who have returned home wounded, many glimpses of the battlefield are being obtained. Unhappily, there are too many independent but corroborative statements of shameful brutality by the enemies from only against men in arms, but against the wounded and women and children. Private Lewis Downs, of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, who was one of the British soldiers present at the battle of Mons in the nine days' fight, states that the endurance and courage of every member of the British force engaged were astounding when the enemy's officer and man entered into the fight with the greatest of enthusiasm, the various regiments singing their particular popular songs.

"Danger," said Private Downs, "is not thought of. It was unknown at Mons. The loud reports and sudden flashes like an approaching storm, simply spurred every man on to greater effort, and when shot we felt no pain, only a numbness. Whenever we got into close quarters the Germans howled and ran like dogs before our bayonets. They are driven into battle like sheep by brutal officers, and their disgraceful conduct is most revolting." He secured an interview from a personal experience that women and children were placed before the German battalions, and that he knew of several instances where the young women were outraged by drunken German officers, and then stripped and paraded in the streets. If they offered much resistance their breasts and ears were cut off by the sword, and when they were remonstrated at such heinous torture, they were shot like rats.

The general impression in the fighting zone is that the British, the Austrians and Germans are aware of ultimate defeat, and intend to do their worst till then. Everywhere the British soldiers are as gay and cheerful as ever. Every man is in high spirits, and the earnest wish of the wounded is for quick recovery to return at the earliest moment.

## FOOTBALL AND THE WAR

LONDON, October 12.—Since the beginning of the war there has been a great deal of discussion about the playing of football and other athletic sports. The opening of the football season brought out crowds of thousands of men and boys, and the question naturally was asked, why they did not enlist. The matter was put